Gulf of Mexico Harmful Algal Bloom Bulletin

29 October 2007

NOAA Ocean Service

NOAA Satellites and Information Service

Last bulletin: October 25, 2007

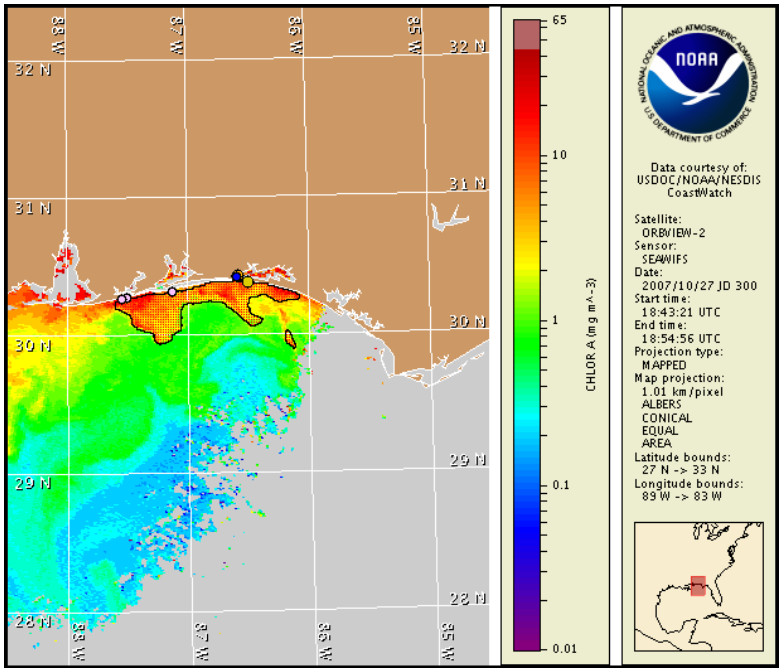
Conditions Report

A harmful algal bloom has been identified in patches from Bay County, Florida to Baldwin County, Alabama. Patchy low impacts are possible today through Thursday in Escambia, Santa Rosa, Okaloosa, Walton, and Bay Counties, Florida and Baldwin County, Alabama. Moderate impacts are also possible in bay regions of Bay and Okaloosa Counties, Florida and Baldwin County, Alabama today through Thursday.

Analysis

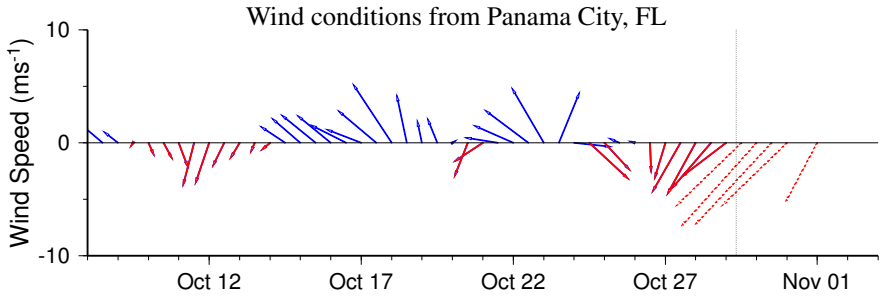
A harmful algal bloom persists from Bay to Escambia County, Florida, and in Baldwin County, Alabama. Chlorophyll levels remain high (>10μg/L) alongshore of Escambia, Walton and western Bay Counties and offshore of Okaloosa County (centralized at 30°17'52"N, 86°41'14"W; approx. 9 mi. from shore). Reports of dead fish have been received from Escambia, Santa Rosa, Okaloosa and Walton County over the past few days. From Gulf to the Walton-Okaloosa county borders, winds throughout the week are expected to be offshore, minimizing impacts at the outer coast, however impacts may be greater inside bay regions. From Okaloosa, FL to Baldwin, AL, alongshore winds on Tuesday and Wednesday may increase impacts. Conditions are favorable for upwelling and intensification of the bloom throughout the week.

~Fenstermacher, Urizar



Satellite chlorophyll image with possible HAB areas shown by red polygon(s). Cell concentration sampling data from October 22 to 25 shown as red (high), orange (medium), yellow (low b), brown (low a), blue(very low b), purple (very low a), pink (present), and green (not present). For a list of cell count data providers and a key to the cell concentration categories, please see the HABFS bulletin guide:

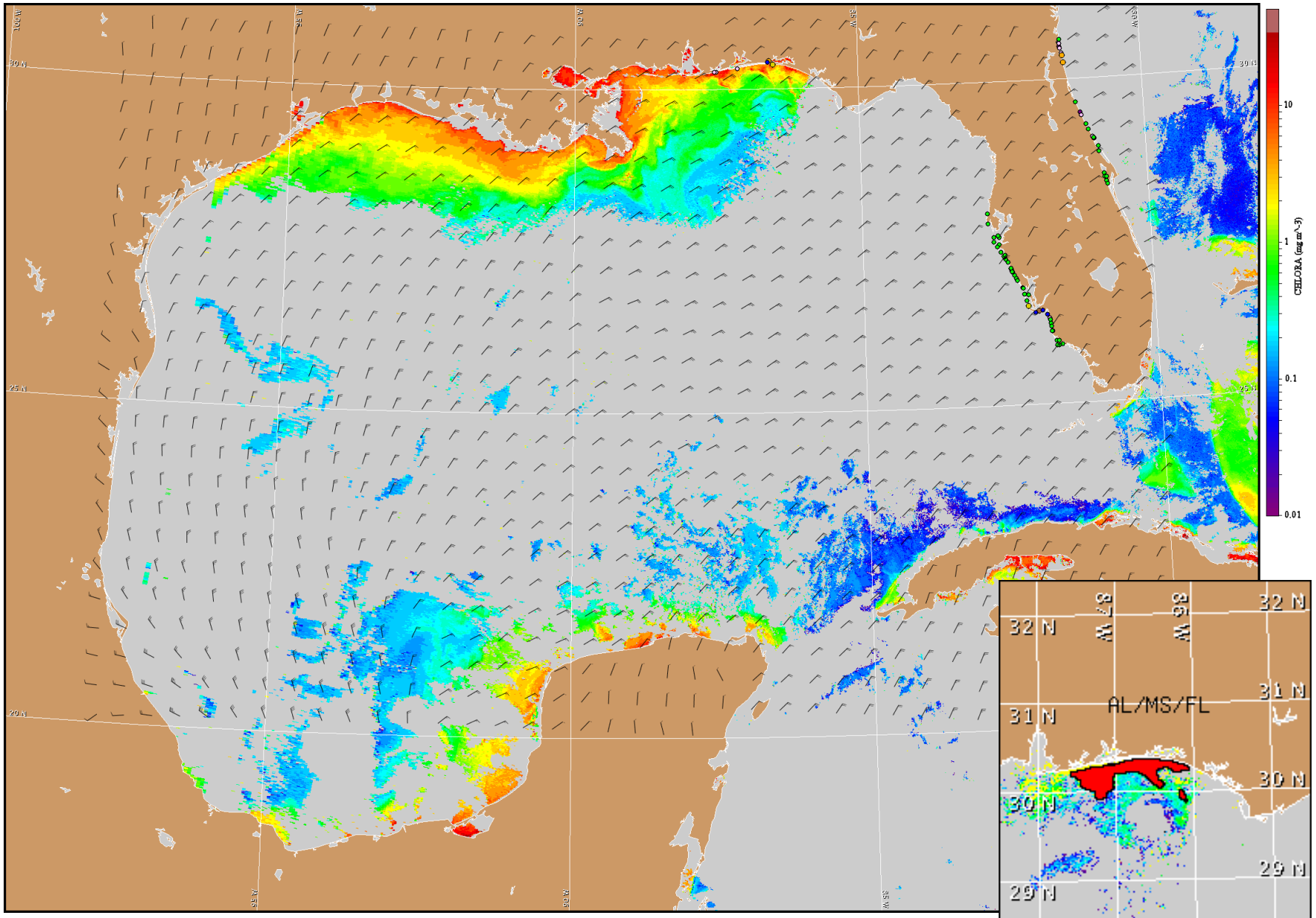
http://www.csc.noaa.gov/crs/habf/habfs_bulletin_guide.pdf



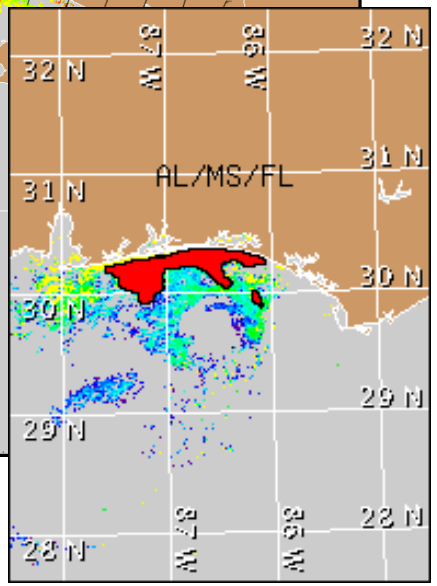
Wind speed and direction are averaged over 12 hours from buoy measurements. Length of line indicates speed; angle indicates direction. Red indicates that the wind direction favors upwelling near the coast. Values to the left of the dotted vertical line are measured values; values to the right are forecasts.

Okaloosa County, FL to Mobile County, AL: Strong northeasterlies on Tuesday followed by strong easterlies Tuesday night through Wednesday (15-25 knts; 8-13 m/s). Strong northeasterlies on Thursday (15-25 knts; 8-13 m/s).

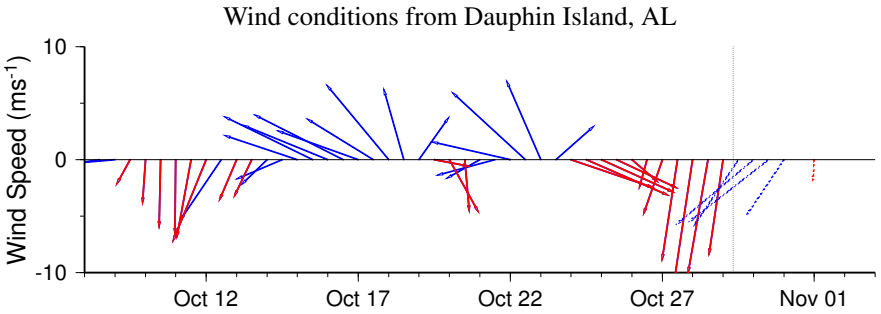
Walton, Bay and Gulf Counties, FL: Strong northeasterlies through Thursday (15-25 knts; 8-13 m/s).



Satellite chlorophyll image and forecast winds for October 30, 2007 12Z with Cell concentration sampling data from October 22 to 25 shown as red (high), orange (medium), yellow (low b), brown (low a), blue(very low b), purple (very low a), pink (present), and green (not present). For a list of cell count data providers and a key to the cell concentration categories, please see the HABFS bulletin guide: http://www.csc.noaa.gov/crs/habf/habfs_bulletin_guide.pdf



Verifi ed and suspected HAB areas shown in red. Other areas of high chlorophyll concentration shown in yellow (see p. 1 analysis for interpretation).


Wind conditions from Dauphin Island, AL
Wind Speed (ms-1)
10
0
-10
Oct 12
Oct 17
Oct 22
Oct 27
Nov 01